

1 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 A method and device monitor usage of external storage media. The method and system

4 selectively shadow I/O (input/output) from/to only external storage media. The method

5 selectively shadows only accesses to external storage media connected to a computer. The

6 method detects a data access to an external storage medium and writes a copy of the accessed

7 data to a storage location other than the external storage medium. In one embodiment, the access

8 is a write operation. In one embodiment, the method intercepts an I/O request from the computer

9 to an external storage media drive in which the external storage media is inserted. In the case of

10 the Windows NT or Windows 2000 operating systems, the intercepted I/O requests are preferably

11 IRP\_MJ\_CREATE, IRP\_MJ\_WRITE, IRP\_MJ\_CLOSE and

12 IRP\_MJ\_FILE\_SYSTEM\_CONTROL packets. An apparatus comprises a detector and a storage

13 connected to the detector. The detector receives I/O requests to an external storage medium. The

14 storage is one other than the external storage medium. Written in the storage is a copy of the

15 accessed data. In one embodiment, the apparatus further comprises one or more proxy handlers

16 connected to the detector, wherein the proxy handlers handle certain I/O requests, which, in the

17 case of the Windows NT or Windows NT operating system, include IRP\_MJ\_CREATE,

18 IRP\_MJ\_WRITE, IRP\_MJ\_CLOSE and IRP\_MJ\_FILE\_SYSTEM\_CONTROL packets.